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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085166
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 085166

FOR R.K. BANK, USDEL, UNCTAD SHIPPING COMMITTEE

FOL RPT OECD PARIS 10483 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS
8 APR 77 QUOTE

UNCLAS OECD PARIS 10483

DEPT PASS MARAD, FMC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD TASK FCE ON THE COORDINATION OF POSSIBLE MEASURES AIMED AT RESOLVING THE WORLD OIL CARRIER SITUATION

REFS: A) STATE 67178; B) C(77)35

1. APRIL 4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING DISCUSSED SEC GEN PROPOSAL TO CONVENE AD HOC MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CONSIDER INTRA-SECRETARIAT TASK FORCE REPORT (REF B) AND TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW ITS RECOMMENDATIONS MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED. AFTER LENGTHY AND INCONCLUSIVE DEBATE, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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DECIDED TO REFER PROPOSAL TO APRIL 19 COUNCIL MEETING FOR FINAL RESOLUTION. AT ISSUE WAS WHETHER INTRA-SECRETARIAT TASK FORCE REPORT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FIRST BY COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE RELEVANT EXPERTISE, (I.E., MARITIME TRANSPORT, SHIPBUILDING, ENVIRONMENT, AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS) OR DIRECTLY BY HIGH LEVEL GROUP. COUNTRIES FAVORING COMMITTEE STUDY FIRST WERE UK, FRG,

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NETHERLANDS, ITALY.

2. NORWAY, GREECE AND BELGIUM VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED A HIGH LEVEL AD HOC MEETING BY MID-MAY WHICH WOULD, INTER-ALIA, AGREE ON BASIS OF RECOMMENDATION WHICH JUNE MI-NISTERIAL COUNCIL COULD ACT ON. CANADA, JAPAN, AND FRANCE UNENTHUSIASTICALLY SUPPORTED CREATION OF HIGH LEVEL GROUP. (FOR EXAMPLE, CANADIAN DEL SAID GOVERN-MENTS SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO BAIL OUT TANKER OPERA-TORS WHO SPECULATED IN MARKET; JAPANESE DEL OBSERVED THAT REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE FAR REACHING AND REQUIRE CAREFUL STUDY IN APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES; FRENCH DEL SAID THAT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS AGREED TO MUST APPLY TO ALL OIL CARRIERS AND FLAGS OF CONVENI-ENCE). AS PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A, US DEL SAID WE CAN SUPPORT SECGEN'S PROPOSAL TO CONVENE AD HOC MEET-ING. WE DID NOT ADDRESS ISSUE OF TIMING OR WHETHER THIS SUBJECT BE CONSIDERED AT JUNE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL. UK, SPAIN AND ITALY, HOWEVER, SAID THERE WAS TOO LITTLE TIME FOR A HIGH LEVEL GROUP TO STUDY AND REACH AGREEMENT ON A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS THAT COULD BE FORWARDED TO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.

3. NORWAY, GREECE AND BELGIUM ARGUED THAT URGENCY AND MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEMS CONFRONTING WORLD OIL CARRIERS WARRANTED EARLY AD HOC MEETING, AND THAT REFERRING REPORT BACK TO COMMITTEES WOULD DELAY PROGRESS UNDULY. COUNTRIES OPPOSED CONTENDED THAT MULTI-FACETED PRO-BLEMS INVOLVING SEVERAL DIFFERENT MINISTRIES COULD NOT
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BE ADDRESSED ADEQUATELY BY ONE MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL GOVERNMENT EXPERTS. DEPUTY SECGEN WOOTTON MADE VIGO-ROUS APPEAL TO FIRST CONVENE HIGH LEVEL GROUP, STATING THAT IT COULD PROVIDE OVERALL GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION TO THE RELEVANT COMMITTEES.
4. COMMENT: AT THE APRIL 19 COUNCIL MEETING WE MAY FACE NOT ONLY THE ISSUE OF HOW AND WHERE TO HANDLE THE TASK FORCE REPORT, BUT ALSO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE NORWEGIAN EFFORT TO GET THE MATTER BEFORE THE JUNE MINISTERIAL. GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE EXCOM DISCUSSION, WE DOUBT THAT THIS TIMING OR TREATMENT CAN BE AGREED. FURTHERMORE, WE DOUBT THAT THE MINISTERS SHOULD BE CONFRONTED WITH THE INTRICATE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE TASK FORCE REPORT DURING THEIR TWO-DAY MEETING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE WILL MAINTAIN THE POSITION SET FORTH IN REF A' IF WASHINGTON HAS ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE TO PROVIDE, WE

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WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING IT BY OPENING OF BUSINESS
APRIL 18.
TURNER

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: PETROLEUM, CARGO SHIPS, OIL SPILLS, SHIP ACCIDENTS, RESOLUTIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, STUDIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: CTAYLOR, JR.:EW
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Film Number: D770132-0838
Format: TEL
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